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REVIEW

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF OPINION

What Is the Republic?

RUSSELL KIRK

"New Ideas" or Old Truth

FRANK S. MEYER

Budgetary Elephantiasis

L. BRENT BOZEIL

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Articles and Reviews by WILLMOORE KENDALL
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The WEEK

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It all began in the Summit Conference at Geneva, in the sunny days of 1955, at which it was resolved, one by one, to settle outstanding problems between East and West. Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson was detailed the minor chore of negotiating with Wang Ping-nan of Peiping the release of ten American civilians being illegally held in Red Chinese jails. Ambassador Johnson went to work immediately. Last week he announced that he has scheduled another conference for February 14—his 65th—and that reminded us that the time has come to urge our readers to send him a Second Annual Postcard (care of U.S. Embassy, Geneva)—we urged our readers to send the first a year ago—telling him never to see Alexis! You've got to give the spirit of Geneva a chance!

Senators Lehman and Douglas appear to be keenly aware of the same thing NATIONAL REVIEW has been maintaining for several months—that in the next four years the serious political battles will not be between Republicans and Democrats but between Republicans and Republicans, and Democrats and Democrats. Senator Lehman, retired and not very happy about it, accuses the Democratic Party of following a politically suicidal course, reaching for party unity, it failed to press for substantive civil rights legislation. He recommended that the new, self-constituted National Advisory Committee bypass congressional Democratic leaders by calling an annual convention, open to all Liberals, which the paths of righteousness would be publicly illumined. Senator Douglas was less oblique: instead of suggesting means of circumnavigating Democratic conservatives, he simply proposed "to leave the Democratic Party where would they go?"

Buried beneath the Budget Message's mountains of words was a sentence that should be more conspicuously framed: "Legislation is recommended to authorize the TVA to finance new generation facilities by the sale of revenue bonds." That is: The purpose of building new steam plants that private enterprise could and would eagerly construct if permitted to do so, is going to sell its own bonds to the public, outside of the regular structure of the national debt. The President has in the past declared his belief in the doctrine that government should do what the people cannot or will not do for themselves.

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● That native Washington institution, The Cocktail Party, is dejected over Senator Ely's informal visit. This is the year of the Well-arranged Dinner. To break bread with the illustrious Republicans one must be a full-fledged Congressman or a Congressionalist—no more. The small party is no longer welcome with the distinguished members of the Republican family. As for Ely, he has not time to know all about the Vertue of Dinner. It is when he plays after dinner. We do not know a thing about his politics, and so would look on the subject as though the sword had been dragged up from the highways, and the highway which New Englanders call a road, as where Old Republicans can be found to spend their time.

Having It Both Ways

By the State of the Union, George Fredrick F. Hughes came out strongly for a limitation. The so-called White House butler's record for \$72 billion of the so-called Mr. Fowell's splides in "National" and "International" is actually for \$84 billion. Every \$72 billion of the so-called is \$5 billion over the sum for 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2

Mr. H. C. Johnson, the treasurer of the American Automobile Association, said that the \$100 billion figure was a projection and that even there it is better to be safe than sorry. He said something about the possibility of a "crash" in the automobile industry, but he said that even the "crash" in the space can be million dollars in it. He said it would take only a slight fall-off in the automobile industry in the Gross National Product to make a gap between what the government spends and what it gets, and what it is able to take on. He said the time may come under big budgets when the government to sustain the taxpayer in his new and highly financed schools, homes, and not-so-called "crash" in the automobile industry.

"The way of the Christian is clear," he said, "I might stop when an objection is raised, but I might not. I do not think that you can stand your ground." If that is the way Mr. Humphrey feels

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Which End of the Telescope?

A revision in the estimates of the rate of Soviet economic growth seems to be under way in both Washington and a number of the civilian research centers. This is a matter of more than abstract importance. American foreign policy is based, to a considerable degree, on the estimates of Soviet military and economic power.

In the past Soviet economic man has been painted ten feet high. There have, of course, been fractional differences of opinion among the government and academic statisticians, but there has been general agreement on the broad dimensions of Soviet economic power.

This agreement no longer prevails. At the convention of the American Economics Association during the Christmas holidays, Professor Warner Nutter of the University of Virginia announced that the rate of Soviet economic growth was below that of the United States. This view will not be friendly reception from professional economists if for no other reason than that Dr. Nutter's inquiries are being sponsored by the respected and wealthy National Bureau of Economic Research.

There is accordingly, some prospect that the gross errors of estimate that have been made over the past 100 minutes may be corrected in the years to come. This will create quite a flutter in Washington's bareheaded butches--especially in the Central Intelligence Agency, which has a very large number of citizens working on this problem--and have come to conclusions altogether different from Dr. Nutter's. Some of the particularly those who have been in the CIA Directorate for Allen W. Dulles with whom they have led to some of his more serious errors, will have to seek out a new way.

Mr. Richard Bassett, who for a long time worked from FICA to CIA after the 1952 election returns came in, may be one of the

international review, which has always taken a scattered view of the Gerasimov theory of the Soviet economy, affords this evidence of scientific progress. For one of our early issues we managed to obtain an estimate of Soviet economic capability that was within the bounds of reasonable "Moscow belief" by Professor Jan. H. Dobb (1961). It might be a good moment for the American periodical press to re-examine its performance on this question, and perhaps to correct the impression that it has so assiduously propagated for twenty years.

